

protested against the Anti-India broadcasting by US media in regard to elections in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). Reporting on US radio and television on elections in Jammu & Kashmir was not substantial. The main commercial networks did not cover the elections in J&K at all. CNN telecast a news item on May 30, 1996 which carried some criticism. There were also some misleading reports on the subject in the US print media of May 24, 1996.

The main thrust of the criticism was that the people in Kashmir had been coerced to vote by security forces, so that the turn out could be high.

(c) Government have comprehensively refuted these false allegations in numerous briefings in Srinagar and New Delhi as well as through Indian Embassies. The Indian Embassy in Washington issued a detailed press briefing the US media following the misleading reports which appeared on May 24, 1996. Editors of leading newspapers and news agencies were also personally briefed by the Embassy.

(d) Government will continue with its policy of transparency in J&K as the most effective method of ensuring that interested observers are able to see the reality on the ground for themselves and report the correct situation to their audiences.

Setting up of Youth Hostels and Holiday Camps

1262. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of youth hostels and holiday camps set up in the country so far alongwith the facilities being provided to the youths at these places, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government allow the retired Government employees to avail of the same facilities which are being provided to the regular Government servants;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government propose to extend these facilities to Ex-Government servants also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHANR) : (a) The following 45 youth hostels have been commissioned. Panchkula, Pipli, Bhiwani (Haryana); Dalhousie, Bilaspur (Himachal

Pradesh); Ropar, Amritsar, Sangrur (Punjab); Jaipur, Jodhpur (Rajasthan); Nainital, Agra (Uttar Pradesh); Sacunderabad, Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh); Hassan, Mysore (Karnataka); Calicut, Ernakulam, Veli (Kerala); Madras, Thanjavur, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli (Tamil Nadu); Panaji (Goa); Gandhinagar (Gujarat); Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh); Aurangabad (Maharashtra); Naharlagun (Arunachal Pradesh); Shillong, Tura (Meghalaya); Patnitop (Jammu & Kashmir); Patna (Bihar); Puri, Joshipur (Orissa); Darjeeling (West Bengal); Golaghat, Guwahati (Assam); Imphal, Ukhrul (Manipur); Tripura (Agartala); Dimapur (Nagaland); Aizawl (Mizoram); Port Blair (Andaman & Nicobar Island); Pondicherry (Pondicherry); Namchi (Sikkim);

These Youth Hostels are non-religious, non-political and non-commercial Units without any discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, caste, creed or social background. Overnight charges are kept to the minimum so that the youth with limited means can avail the stay facilities. Concession in overnight charges is given to members of Youth Hostel Association and students in organised groups of educational Institutions. It promotes youth travel by providing inexpensive hostel facilities to young persons on their educational excursions to historical and cultural centres intended to foster feelings of better understanding of each others, gain knowledge about diversities of the country, its natural beauty and historical heritage. The Department of Tourism, Government of India have, however, not set up any holiday camps.

(b) Youth hostels are primarily meant for short stay of travellers, especially youth, irrespective of their status.

(c) & (d). Does not arise.

Patent Right

1263. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US based Fox Chase Cancer Centre has applied to European patent Office for right over phylanthus Niruri popularly known in India as "bhuin amla" which is used by Ayurvedic and unani doctors for curing jaundice; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). US based Fox chase Cancer Centre has filed a patent in Europe for treating hepatitis virus by administering a component of phylanthus Niruri popularly known as "Bhumi Amla" used by Ayurvedic and Unani doctors for various ailments including Liver disorders.

No patent right can be granted for plants as such or parts of the plants because these are available in nature.

Pak Prime Minister's Statement on Kashmir

1264. SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to Mrs. Benazir Bhutto's recent address to the nation in which she has, inter alia, expressed her resolve to give whole hearted support to Kashmiri Muslims in their struggle for right of self-determination; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The tone of Pakistan Prime Minister's address to the nation on 28 June, 1996 was at variance with the letter of felicitations sent by her to our Prime Minister at his assumption of office. In his reply to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, our Prime Minister suggested the resumption of the Foreign Secretary level dialogue. We await Pakistan's response to our Prime Minister's letter to the Pakistani Prime Minister.

Closure of Jammu-Srinagar Highway

1265. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days Jammu-Srinagar Highway remained closed for traffic during 1995 and from January to June 1996 with main reasons therefor;

(b) the expenditure incurred on repair works on the Jammu-Srinagar highway during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96; and

(c) whether the conditions of the highway is getting deteriorated and the steps being taken to make the highway motorable?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The Jammu-Srinagar highway remained closed for 41 days during 1995 and 9 days during January, 1996 to June, 1996 due to heavy rainfall and snowfall.

(b) The expenditure incurred on repairs works, on the Jammu-Srinagar highway, during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 was Rs. 413 lakhs, Rs. 511 lakhs and Rs. 516 lakhs respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

Even though the existing availability of funds for improvement/maintenance is quite meagre, yet persistent efforts are on to maintain the highway in motorable condition.

[Translation]

Central Government Health Scheme

1266. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the Central Government Health Scheme dispensaries are having their own laboratories for blood/sputum/stool/urin testing;

(b) is not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any scheme to provide the said facility in all the dispensaries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the above said facilities are likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). It is not feasible to provide laboratory facilities in each dispensary due to financial constraints. However, all CGHS dispensaries have been covered for laboratory facilities by attaching two/three of the nearest dispensaries to the dispensaries which have the laboratory facilities.

[English]

Implementation of Major Projects

1267. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of villagers have been ousted from their native villages as a result of the implementation of major projects like Subarnarekha Multipurpose project and the Koel-Karo Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total number of people affected by Subarnarekha Multipurpose Project and Koel Karo Project is given below :

I. Subarnarekha Multipurpose Project		
1.	Chandil Dam (Bihar)	37596 No.
2.	Icha Dam	
(i)	Bihar Portion	126160 No.
(ii)	Orissa Portion	9653 No.
3.	Haladia Dam	1629 No.
4.	Jambhira Dam	6672 No.
5.	Baura Dam	5474 No.
II.	Koel Karo Project	22359 No.